

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 7, 8 and 10 were amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A recombinant host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6 or a membrane thereof expressing the polypeptide of ~~claim 1~~:

- (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and
- (e) fragments and variants of such polypeptides in (a) to (d).

8. (Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide of claim 1 an isolated polypeptide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and
- (e) fragments and variants of such polypeptides in (a) to (d).

comprising the step of culturing a host cell as defined in claim 7 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

10. (Amended) An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 3.